

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 IOE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

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O R 151806Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4198

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, FR, CN, UN

SUBJECT: COMOROS ISLANDS

REF: (A) USUN 4963 (NOTAL); (B) PARIS 25751

1. QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA CHAUVET TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 15 THAT FRENCH TALKS WITH COMOROS DELEGATION BROKE UP THE DAY BEFORE OVER THE QUESTION OF "CONSULTATION" WITH THE MAYOTTE POPULATION. JAFFAR'S REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO BUDGE FROM THEIR CONTENTION THAT ONCE THE INDEPENDENCE OF COMOROS HAS BEEN DECLARED, IT WOULD BE AN INFRINGEMENT OF COMOROS' SOVEREIGNTY TO VOTE AGAIN ON MAYOTTE'S FUTURE STATUS; THE FRENCH, ON THE OTHER HAND, HELD THAT IT WOULD CONSTITUTE "CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT" FOR THE GOF TO AGREE TO INDEPENDENCE BEFORE A NEW PLEBISCITE WAS HELD IN MAYOTTE AS PROVIDED BY THE JULY 3 INDEPENDENCE LAW. THE COMORIANS AGREED CONDITIONALLY TO REQUEST THE UN TO DELAY ACTION ON THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, CHAUVET SAID, BUT WHEN THE  
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FRENCH REFUSED TO DISPENSE WITH A PLEBISCITE, DECIDED

AGAINST DOING SO. HENCE, THE FRENCH EXPECT THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OCTOBER 17.

2. CHAUVET SAID FRANCE'S POSITION IN THE SC WILL BE DECIDED IN MOSCOW BY GISCARD AND SAUVAGNARGUES. THE QUAI CABLED THREE CHOICES FOR PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION: VETO, ABSTENTION OR NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE VOTE. CHAUVET EXPECTS ONE OF THE LATTER TWO OPTIONS WILL BE SELECTED. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THE QUAI IS PROPOSING AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE POINTING OUT THE GOF'S ORIGINAL INTENTION TO BRING THE TERRITORY TO INDEPENDENCE IN UNITY AND THE RESTRAINTS SUBSEQUENTLY IMPOSED ON ITS ABILITY TO DO SO BY THE AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED IN THE JULY 3 LAW BY PARLIAMENT.

3. CHAUVET INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH EXPECT ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SC TO VOTE FOR COMORIAN MEMBERSHIP. HE DESCRIBED THE FRENCH POSITION AS "EMBARRASSING" AND SEEMED ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS AFFECT ON AFRICANS. HE SUGGESTED THAT FRIENDLY STATES IN WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBER EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE REASONS FOR FRANCE'S INABILITY TO SPONSOR COMORIAN MEMBERSHIP WILL BE OVERCOME SO THAT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND COMOROS CAN BE REESTABLISHED RAPIDLY.

4. ACCORDING TO CHAUVET, THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORONI AND THE MAYOTTE MAJORITY (INCLUDING HENRY, WHO ALSO WAS IN PARIS LAST WEEK) ON MOST OF THE TERMS OF A FEDERAL CONSTITUTION. CHAUVET SPECULATED THAT AFTER THE SC VOTE, THE GOF WOULD ASK PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE A BILL RECOGNIZING COMORIAN INDEPENDENCE AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. ONCE SUCH A BILL BECAME LAW, THE FRENCH WOULD SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE MORONI GOVERNMENT SIMILAR TO THOSE WITH OTHER EX-COLONIES. MEANWHILE, THE FRENCH HAVE ASSURED JAFFAR THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AND PAY FOR FRENCH TECHNICAL ADVISORS NOW IN COMOROS. CHAUVET ADMITTED THAT PRESSURES FROM AFRICAN RADICALS SUCH AS TANZANIA, WHO WOULD CITE FRANCE'S "ANTI-COMORIAN" STAND IN THE SC, MIGHT CAUSE THE COMORIANS TO DO SOMETHING WHICH

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WOULD UPSET THIS OPTIMISTIC SCENARIO.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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